The ‘Other’ Education: Professional Development Beyond the Classroom

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Professional Development: an OGAPS Priority!

- To improve and expand professional development (PD) opportunities for TAMU graduate students:
  - Promote existing opportunities
  - Identify gaps, develop new offerings
What is PD?

• Training outside traditional, discipline-based graduate coursework.

• Helps bridge the gap between graduate education and the workforce.
What is PD?

Goals of participating in PD:

1. Students learn skills that are transferable.

2. Students gain greater awareness of different career paths (thus, increasing confidence and independence).
Why is PD important?

Today’s Job Market

1. The tight job market in higher education is widespread.

2. Job mobility (multiple careers) is the new normal.


Measures for Success

- Students need information about alternative employment options.

- Students need to prepare for a larger array of employment opportunities.

- These activities will set our students apart from the average graduate student.
Goal #1 Transferable Skills

Top five transferable skills (for all fields):

- Communication
- Knowledge of the field
- Planning/organization
- Ethics/integrity
- Teamwork
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Goal #2 Career Path Knowledge

Figure 2

From
Career outcomes for graduate students

• Approximately 50% of TAMU doctoral degree holders find initial placement in non-faculty, non-postdoc positions
Goal #2 Career Path Knowledge

• Initial placement for Texas A&M’s May 2014 PhD students in *Humanities & Social Science fields*:
  – Higher Education Faculty = 42%
  – Industry, Government, Non-Profit, K-12, alt-ac = 54%
  – Postdocs = 4%

• Initial placement for Texas A&M’s May 2014 PhD students in *STEM fields*:
  – Higher Education faculty = 6%
  – Industry, Government, Non-Profit, K-12 = 50 %
  – University or National Lab Postdocs = 44%
Questions to Ask Yourself:

• Do your career goals fit the realities of the job market for your discipline?

• Are you well informed about multiple career options?
  (Do you have a back-up plan?)
*New* tool for finding resources

OGAPS PD Portal

A search engine for students to identify PD opportunities across campus

*ogaps.tamu.edu/profdev-portal*
Collaboration of 8 campus units to provide professional development opportunities for graduate students to better prepare them for professional life after graduate school.

**G.R.A.D. Aggies Collaborators:**
- Career Center
- CTE
- GSC
- ISS
- OGAPS
- SCS
- University Libraries
- UWC

**G.R.A.D. Aggies Programs:**
- Workshops
- Seminars
- One-to-one consultations
- Online Resources
- For more information visit [http://gradaggies.tamu.edu](http://gradaggies.tamu.edu)
GRADUATE STUDENTS:

Worried about your future? Thinking about non-academic careers? There is a resource for YOU!

Founded and staffed by PhDs, VPhD helps you become versatile: ready, willing, and able to steer your career in many directions!

Serving Humanities, Social Science, and STEM fields

START HERE!

- Go to vphd.info/TAMU_go
- Enter your NetId and password
- Create a VPhD account
- Sign in!
Resources – Career Development

• Career Center
  – Internships, Co-ops, Externships
  – Career Fairs

• Mays Business School
  – Certificate in Entrepreneurial Leadership
  – Certificate in Business

• ALEC Department
  – Certificate in Leadership Education, Theory, and Practice
• Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE)
  – Graduate Teaching Academy (GTA)
  – Seminar Series
  – TA Consultant and Mentoring Programs
Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning

- [http://cirtl.tamu.edu/](http://cirtl.tamu.edu/)

- Courses/webinars for all disciplines (most examples from STEM*)

- Local activities: Academy for Future Faculty, Teaching as Research, workshops

*STEM = Science, Technology, Engineering & Math

NSF-funded network of 22 Tier 1 research universities

GOAL: Preparing future faculty in high-impact, evidence-based teaching skills
Resources – Academic Writing

• University Writing Center
  – Dissertation Retreat
  – Dissertation/Thesis Writing Groups

• POWER Writing Program
  – Workshops, Credit Bearing Courses, Consultations
Learn Leadership in G.S. Organizations

- Dept/College Graduate Student Societies
- University level:
  - Graduate Student Council
  - Black Graduate Student Association
  - International Student Association
  - Hispanic/Latino Graduate Student Association
  - Indian Graduate Students Association

- Professional Society Chapters on campus
  (e.g., American Society of Mechanical Engineers)
Funding Available

Travel to conduct research or present at conferences:

– OGAPS Research and Presentation Grant

– Graduate Student Council Travel Award

– Many professional societies offer travel awards

• Dissertation Fellowships
  – Year-long stipend with tuition for final year of PhD
Questions?
Comments?